(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan between the Government of India and Myanmarese Government to solve the Indo-Myanmar border problems; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are no reports to suggest this.

(c) and (d) Various institutional mechanisms have been set up whereby regular dialogue between the two sides is maintained on border issues and security-related matters.

War Like Situation on Northern Border

3060. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the reported Statement of the General Officer commanding Northern Sector in end of October, 2001 to the effect that the situation on our Northern Borders is not different from 1965 when India had to fight a war against Pakistan;

(b) if so, what was the precise situation leading the GoI to make such a statement;

(c) whether the Union Minister of State for External Affairs stated on 31st October, 2001 that Kashmir issue is not political but a military issue, if so, in what precise context; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Army Commander, Northern Command had made certain observations during the course of a key-note address delivered by him at the University of Jammu recently about Pakistan continuing a covert war and its support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and the resolve of the nation to tackle the threat effectively. Government have seen certain media reports on the subject where a few of such observations have been exaggerated.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government's position on the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been consistent and principled. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is

an integral part of Indian Union and a part of its territory is under illegal occupation by Pakistan.

Talibans being diverted to India by ISI

3061. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is diverting and directing Talibans towards India (Jammu and Kashmir State) for their safe hideouts and Jehad; and

(b) what special steps the Ministry is contemplating to stop such type of cross border terrorism, effectively and vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The possibility of diversion of some Taliban cadres towards Jammu and Kashmir at the behest of Pakistan cannot be ruled out. Appropriate measures have been taken to address the threat of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. These include a multi-pronged proactive approach to effectively counter infiltration and also to conduct synergised counter proxy war operations in the hinterland. Extensive operations are launched to dominate the areas of operations with the specific task of targetting foreign terrorists. As a result of these measure, 1793 terrorists have been eliminated during the current year (1.1.2001 to 10.12.2001).

Role of Territorial Army in Combating insurgency in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir

3062. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how is the Territorial Army helping in counter-insurgency operations in the North-East and in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of units of Territorial Army deployed in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the Strength of the Territorial Army in view of disturbed law and order and insurgency problems?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Territorial Army units have been deployed on the counter-terrorism grid primarily for relieving regular army units from static security duties. Nine